

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Idaho Winter Wheat Production Decreases 4 Percent

Idaho's 2004 winter wheat production is forecast at 55.1 million bushels, 4 percent less than last year, but up 14 percent from the 2002 crop. Based on May 1 conditions, the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service reports that yield is estimated at 81.0 bushels per acre, up one bushel per acre from last year's yield. Acres expected to be harvested are set at 680,000 acres, a decrease of 40,000 acres from 2003.

Idaho's May 1 hay stocks totaled 445,000 tons, down 30 percent from May 1, 2003. Hay production during 2003 was down 6 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels per acre less than last year. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season.

Hay stocks on farms totaled 25.9 million tons on May 1, 2004, up 17 percent from May 1, 2003. The increase in May 1 stocks was mainly the result of higher hay production in 2003.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.